

1 _____ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. _____
2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A STATE CATTLE
6 ASSESSMENT AND A MONTANA CATTLE COMMITTEE TO FUND AND ADMINISTER RESEARCH,
7 PROMOTION, AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE MONTANA CATTLE
8 INDUSTRY; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 70TH
9 LEGISLATURE.

11 WHEREAS, the beef industry is a vital and longstanding cornerstone of the state of Montana's
12 agricultural economy, with over 2.5 million cattle raised across the state annually, contributing significantly to
13 the state's gross domestic product, rural communities, and job market; and

WHEREAS, the production of cattle and beef provides a viable living for many Montanans and serves as the economic foundation of many communities; and

WHEREAS, the stabilization, maintenance, and expansion of markets for Montana cattle is necessary
in order to provide consumers with an adequate supply of high-quality beef; and

WHEREAS, the state of Montana has established a reputation for producing some of the best beef in the world, and Montana's high-quality beef is a respected product in national and international markets; and

20 WHEREAS, supporting Montana's beef industry is critical to maintaining the state's reputation for
21 producing some of the best beef in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Montana beef industry faces numerous challenges, including fluctuating market prices,
rising feed and input costs, trade barriers, and increased competition from foreign beef imports; and

24 WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature recognizes the importance of ensuring that the state's beef
25 industry remains competitive, sustainable, and supported through favorable policies, shared organization,
26 education and promotion, market access, and fair trade agreements.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF

1 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

2 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory
3 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, to examine the profitability and marketability of the state's cattle
4 industry, propose legislation to improve management, research, education, and promotion of state beef and
5 beef products, and support the expansion of domestic and international markets for Montana cattle.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee:

7 (1) consider the implementation of a state assessment on Montana cattle to fund the promotion,
8 marketing, research, and education of Montana beef and beef products, similar to the National Beef Checkoff
9 Program but at the state level;

10 (2) review how similar state-level cattle assessments were implemented in other states, including
11 but not limited to North Dakota, Idaho, Washington, Utah, California, and Texas;

12 (3) examine stakeholder research and recommendations for conducting a referendum of Montana
13 cattle producers to determine the level of interest for a state cattle assessment;

14 (4) investigate options for an assessment refund and distribution process, similar to existing
15 processes for the refund of assessments on wheat and barley, alfalfa seed, and pulse crops in Title 80, chapter
16 11, MCA; and

17 (5) evaluate the membership of a potential quasi-state agency commodity board to administer and
18 manage the state cattle assessment and funds, including the membership selection and the appointment
19 process.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee include input from state cattle producers, the
21 Montana Stockgrowers Association, the Montana Cattlemen's Association, the Montana Association of
22 Livestock Auction Markets, the Montana Cattlewomen, the Montana Beef Council, the Intertribal Agriculture
23 Council, the Montana Meat Processors Association, the Montana Cattle Feeders Association, the Montana
24 Farm Bureau Federation, and the Montana Farmers Union.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
26 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2026.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
28 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 70th Legislature.

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